

Amendment to General Business Notice of Motion No 1374

As listed on page 13-14 of today's Notice Paper in the name of Senator Storer

To move—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that:
 - (i) the Murray-Darling Basin needs more water to ensure its survival, the latest evidence of this being the fish-kills at Menindee Lakes,
 - (ii) the management of the Murray-Darling Basin requires urgent reform,
 - (iii) the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission delivered its findings on 29 January 2019, including recommendations to:
 - (A) improve transparency by “requiring real-time data sharing and publication on water extractions”,
 - (B) abolish the water buybacks cap of 1,500 gigalitres, and
 - (C) undertake further research into return flows so that we know the effects of irrigation efficiency projects, and
 - (iv) the Productivity Commission delivered its findings to the Federal Government on 19 December 2018, pointing out that:
 - (A) the Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s twin roles as overseer of the Plan and its regulator are “conflicted and the conflicts will intensify in the next five years”, and
 - (B) structural separation of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority into a Basin Plan Regulator and Murray-Darling Basin Agency is required to ensure effective implementation of the Plan; and
- (b) calls on the Federal Government to:
 - (i) ~~adopt~~ **immediately respond** to each and every recommendation proposed by the Murray-Darling Basin Royal Commission **and the Productivity Commission’s review of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan**, and
 - (ii) proceed with the structural separation of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, as proposed by the Productivity Commission.